

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 18, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader, Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader, House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders:

As Republican members of the Senate who supported and voted for H.R. 976, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2007, we urge continued action on a bipartisan basis to build on our efforts in order to arrive at a bill to reauthorize health insurance for low-income children. We remain committed to reauthorizing this important program, and we urge you to continue seeking thoughtful input from both sides of the aisle.


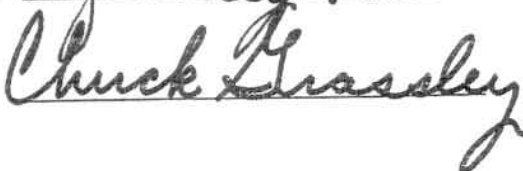
As you are aware, the House today voted to sustain the President's veto of the CHIP compromise that passed the House and Senate. Like any good compromise, Members on both sides of the aisle had reservations about certain provisions in the final bill, yet we voted in favor of this legislation because we believed it provided the funding necessary to continue this important program and improve many of its weaknesses. In light of recent events, however, we believe that it is imperative that we all work together without delay to arrive at a reauthorization bill that can be passed by Congress and become law.


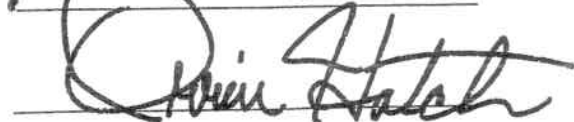
Now that the veto of H.R. 976 has been sustained, we must move forward with legislation that can resolve our differences and reauthorize the program. While our support for that legislation has been registered, it is our hope that the next phase of this effort will be productive and not degenerate into gridlock and partisanship.

Our votes represented a promise to help low-income children, and we are committed to remaining true to that promise. By voting in favor of H.R. 976, we have demonstrated our willingness to work on a bipartisan basis. We strongly believe that health coverage of low-income children must remain the number one goal of the CHIP program.

Low-income children and states need a stable and improved program rather than a series of temporary extensions. We look forward to continuing to work on this important effort.

Sincerely,

No. 1 Coloma

W. H. Bond

Art Mancini

Jed Stevens

Susan Collins

Al Smith

Olympe Snowe

Lamar Alexander

Pat Roberts

Lee Mendenhall

John E. Sumner

John Z. Sauer

Richard B. Lugar

Am. Spectator